

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Alexandria Division



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

DONALD JOHNSON,

Defendant.

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CRIMINAL NO. 1:11 CR 254

PLEA AGREEMENT

Denis J. McInerney, Chief, Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice; Justin Goodyear, Trial Attorney; Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Raymond E. Patricco Jr., Assistant United States Attorney; and the defendant, DONALD JOHNSON; and the defendant's counsel have entered into an agreement pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The terms of the agreement are as follows:

**1. Offenses and Maximum Penalties**

The defendant agrees to waive indictment and plead guilty to a one-count criminal information charging the defendant with securities fraud (in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 78j and 78ff). The maximum penalties for securities fraud are a maximum term of twenty (20) years of imprisonment; a fine of \$5,000,000; or both. The defendant understands that this supervised release term is in addition to any prison term the defendant may receive, and that a violation of a term of supervised release could result in the defendant being returned to prison for the full term of supervised release.

**2. Factual Basis for the Plea**

The defendant will plead guilty because the defendant is in fact guilty of the charged offense. The defendant admits the facts set forth in the statement of facts filed with this plea agreement and agrees that those facts establish guilt of the offenses charged beyond a reasonable doubt. The statement of facts, which is hereby incorporated into this plea agreement, constitutes a stipulation of facts for purposes of Section 1B1.2(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

**3. Assistance and Advice of Counsel**

The defendant is satisfied that the defendant's attorneys have rendered effective assistance. The defendant understands that by entering into this agreement, the defendant surrenders certain rights as provided in this agreement. The defendant understands that the rights of criminal defendants include the following:

- a. the right to plead not guilty and to persist in that plea;
- b. the right to a jury trial;
- c. the right to be represented by counsel – and if necessary have the court appoint counsel – at trial and at every other stage of the proceedings; and
- d. the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

**4. Role of the Court and the Probation Office**

The defendant understands that the Court has jurisdiction and authority to impose any sentence within the statutory maximum described above but that the Court will determine the defendant's actual sentence in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The defendant understands that

the Court has not yet determined a sentence and that any estimate of the advisory sentencing range under the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Sentencing Guidelines Manual the defendant may have received from the defendant's counsel, the United States, or the Probation Office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office, or the Court. Additionally, pursuant to the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005), the Court, after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), may impose a sentence above or below the advisory sentencing range, subject only to review by higher courts for reasonableness. The United States makes no promise or representation concerning what sentence the defendant will receive, and the defendant cannot withdraw a guilty plea based upon the actual sentence.

**5. Waiver of Appeal, FOIA and Privacy Act Rights**

The defendant also understands that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 affords a defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed. Nonetheless, the defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal the conviction and any sentence within the statutory maximum described above (or the manner in which that sentence was determined) on the grounds set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 or on any ground whatsoever, in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742(b). The defendant also hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, or the Privacy Act, Title 5,

United States Code, Section 552a.

**6. Recommended Sentencing Factors**

In accordance with Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States and the defendant will recommend to the Court that the following provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines apply:

- a. pursuant to USSG § 2B1.4(a), the base offense level for the conduct charged is 8;
- b. pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(H), the conduct charged resulted in a loss of more than \$400,000.00 and less than \$1,000,000 and qualifies for a 14-level upward adjustment;
- c. pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), the defendant has assisted the government in the investigation and prosecution of the defendant's own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of the defendant's intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. If the defendant qualifies for a 2-level decrease in offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) and the offense level prior to the operation of that section is a level 16 or greater, the government agrees to file, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), a motion prior to, or at the time of, sentencing for an additional 1-level decrease in the defendant's offense level.

The United States and the defendant may argue at sentencing that additional provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines, including the 2-level upward adjustment for abuse of a position of special

trust (as referenced in Note 1 to USSG § 2B1.4), do or do not apply. In addition, the United States reserves the right to argue at sentencing that the defendant engaged in a series of transactions in the securities of Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. based on material, non-public information in his possession concerning that company's earnings announcement on or about May 8, 2008 ("the ENER Trades"). The United States further reserves the right to argue that the ENER Trades constituted relevant conduct for purposes of sentencing.

**7. Venue**

The defendant waives any challenge to venue in the Eastern District of Virginia. The defendant understands that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 18 affords the defendant the right to have his offense prosecuted in the district in which the offense was committed. The defendant knowingly consents to have the offenses set forth in the criminal information prosecuted in the Eastern District of Virginia.

**8. Special Assessment**

Before sentencing in this case, the defendant agrees to pay a mandatory special assessment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per count of conviction.

**9. Payment of Monetary Penalties**

The defendant understands and agrees that whatever monetary penalties are imposed by the Court pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3613, will be due and payable immediately and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States. Furthermore, the defendant agrees to provide all of his financial information to the United States and the Probation Office and, if requested, to participate in a pre-sentencing debtor's examination. If the Court imposes a schedule of payments, the defendant understands that the schedule of payments is merely a minimum

schedule of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available to the United States to enforce the judgment. If the defendant is incarcerated, the defendant agrees to participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, regardless of whether the Court specifically directs participation or imposes a schedule of payments.

**10. Limited Immunity from Further Prosecution**

The Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia will not further criminally prosecute the defendant for the specific conduct described in the information or statement of facts. The defendant understands that this agreement is binding only upon the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. This agreement does not bind the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice or the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia or any other United States Attorney's Office, nor does it bind any other Section of the Department of Justice, nor does it bind any other state, local, or federal prosecutor. It also does not bar or compromise any civil, tax, or administrative claim pending or that might be made against the defendant.

**11. The Defendant's Obligations Regarding Assets Subject to Forfeiture**

The defendant agrees to identify all assets over which the defendant exercises or exercised control, directly or indirectly, within the past seven years, or in which the defendant has or had during that time any financial interest. The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to obtain from any other parties by any lawful means any records of assets owned at any time by the defendant. The defendant agrees to undergo any polygraph examination the United

States may choose to administer concerning such assets and to provide and/or consent to the release of the defendant's tax returns for the previous six years. Defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States all of the defendant's interests in any asset of a value of more than \$1,000 that, within the last eight years, the defendant owned, or in which the defendant maintained an interest, the ownership of which the defendant fails to disclose to the United States in accordance with this agreement.

## **12. Forfeiture Agreement**

The defendant agrees to forfeit all interests in any asset that the defendant owns or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, as well as any property that is traceable to, derived from, fungible with, or a substitute for property that constitutes the proceeds of his offense. The defendant further agrees to waive all interest in the asset(s) in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. The defendant agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. The defendant understands that the forfeiture of assets is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case.

The defendant understands that, as described in Section 6 above, the United States intends to argue at sentencing that the ENER Trades constitute relevant conduct, and that the proceeds of these transactions should be included in the forfeiture amount. The defendant retains the right to argue that the ENER Trades do not constitute relevant conduct and that the proceeds of these transactions should not be included in the forfeiture amount.

**13. Waiver of Further Review of Forfeiture**

The defendant further agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Plea Agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The defendant also waives any failure by the Court to advise the defendant of any applicable forfeiture at the time the guilty plea is accepted as required by Rule 11(b)(1)(J). The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding. The defendant understands and agrees that all property covered by this agreement is subject to forfeiture as proceeds of illegal conduct, property facilitating illegal conduct, property involved in illegal conduct giving rise to forfeiture, and substitute assets for property otherwise subject to forfeiture.

**14. Breach of the Plea Agreement and Remedies**

This agreement is effective when signed by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, and an attorney for the United States. The defendant agrees to entry of this plea agreement at the date and time scheduled with the Court by the United States (in consultation with the defendant's attorney). If the defendant withdraws from this agreement, or commits or attempts to commit any additional federal, state or local crimes, or intentionally gives materially false, incomplete, or misleading testimony or information, or otherwise violates any provision of this agreement, then:

- a. The United States will be released from its obligations under this agreement, including any obligation to seek a downward departure or a reduction in sentence. The defendant, however, may not withdraw the guilty plea entered



pursuant to this agreement;

- b. The defendant will be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation, including, but not limited to, perjury and obstruction of justice, that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed. Notwithstanding the subsequent expiration of the statute of limitations, in any such prosecution the defendant agrees to waive any statute-of-limitations defense; and
- c. Any prosecution, including the prosecution that is the subject of this agreement, may be premised upon any information provided, or statements made, by the defendant, and all such information, statements, and leads derived therefrom may be used against the defendant. The defendant waives any right to claim that statements made before or after the date of this agreement, including the statement of facts accompanying this agreement or adopted by the defendant and any other statements made pursuant to this or any other agreement with the United States, should be excluded or suppressed under Fed. R. Evid. 410, Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f), the Sentencing Guidelines or any other provision of the Constitution or federal law.

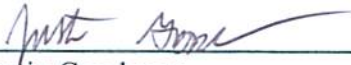
Any alleged breach of this agreement by either party shall be determined by the Court in an appropriate proceeding at which the defendant's disclosures and documentary evidence shall be admissible and at which the moving party shall be required to establish a breach of the plea agreement by a preponderance of the evidence. The proceeding established by this paragraph does not apply, however, to the decision of the United States whether to file a motion based on

“substantial assistance” as that phrase is used in Rule 35(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements. The defendant agrees that the decision whether to file such a motion rests in the sole discretion of the United States.

**15. Nature of the Agreement and Modifications**

This written agreement constitutes the complete plea agreement between the United States, the defendant, and the defendant’s counsel. The defendant and his attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in writing in this plea agreement, to cause the defendant to plead guilty. Any modification of this plea agreement shall be valid only as set forth in writing in a supplemental or revised plea agreement signed by all parties.

Denis J. McNerney  
Chief  
Criminal Division, Fraud Section  
United States Department of Justice

By:   
Justin Goodyear  
Trial Attorney

Neil H. MacBride  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia

By:   
Raymond E. Patricco Jr.  
Assistant United States Attorney

Defendant's Signature: I hereby agree that I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand all rights with respect to the pending criminal information. Further, I fully understand all rights with respect to 18 U.S.C. § 3553 and the provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines Manual that may apply in my case. I have read this plea agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand this agreement and voluntarily agree to it.

Date: 24 May 11 Donald Johnson  
Donald Johnson  
Defendant

Defense Counsel Signature: I am counsel for the defendant in this case. I have fully explained to the defendant the defendant's rights with respect to the pending information. Further, I have reviewed 18 U.S.C. § 3553 and the Sentencing Guidelines Manual, and I have fully explained to the defendant the provisions that may apply in this case. I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge, the defendant's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

Date: 5/26/11 Jonathan A. Simms, Esq.  
Jonathan A. Simms, Esq.  
Counsel for the Defendant